

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A remote computer processor reset apparatus comprising a manually operable switch, a connective circuit in electrical communication at a first end thereof with the manually operable switch and a counter having a first section for counting events, a second section for counting time, and being capable of distinguishing between an unintentional short circuit and an intentional reset request, the counter being in electrical communication with a second end of the connective circuit and further connected at a second end thereof to the computer processor so as to transmit a responsive reset signal thereto.
2. The remote computer processor reset apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the counter is adapted to transmit a signal to the computer processor in response to a successive plurality of short circuit signals received within a predetermined time period.
3. The remote computer processor reset apparatus as described in claim 2, wherein the counter is responsive to from two to five successive signals received within two to four seconds.
4. The remote computer processor reset apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the logic circuit is responsive to three successive signals received within three seconds.
5. The remote computer processor reset apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the manually operable switch is a momentary contact switch.

6. A method for resetting a remote computer processor comprising the steps of connecting to the computer processor a counter capable of distinguishing an accidental short circuit from an intentional reset request and transmitting a reset request signal to the computer processor in response to a determination that an intentional reset request has occurred.
7. The method for resetting a remotely located computer processor as claimed in claim 6, wherein the step of connecting to the computer a counter comprises the counter comparing the number of signals in a selected time period to a preset value.
8. The method for resetting a remotely located computer processor as claimed in claim 6, further comprising counting the number of signals received in a selected period of time, and if the number of signals received in the selected period of time equals a selected number, transmitting a reset request to the computer processor.
9. The method for resetting a remotely located computer processor as claimed in claim 8, wherein the number of signals is between three and five and the selected time period is between two and four seconds.
10. The method for resetting a remotely located computer processor as claimed in claim 9, wherein the number of signals is three and the selected time period is three seconds.
11. A remote computer processor reset apparatus having means for distinguishing between an unintentional short circuit and a signal intended for remotely resetting the processor when the processor is frozen, comprising:

- a) means for receiving and counting plural discrete input signals;
- b) means for determining time from a first of the plural discrete input signals to end at a selected time interval; and
- c) the means for receiving and counting being programmed to transmit a reset request signal to the frozen remote processor if the number of input signals in the selected time interval equals a selected number.

12. Apparatus for resetting a remotely located computer processor when the computer processor is frozen, comprising:

- (a) an auxiliary circuit for distinguishing an intentional signal from an unintentional fault and transmitting a reset request signal in response to a determination that a received signal is intentional:

- (b) means for generating an intentional signal;

- (c) means connecting the signal generating means to the auxiliary circuit; and

- (d) means connecting the auxiliary circuit to a computer processor power supply for resetting the computer processor in response to a reset request.

13. The apparatus for resetting a remote computer processor as described in claim 12, wherein the means for generating an intentional signal comprises a momentary contact switch.

14. The apparatus for resetting a remote computer processor as described in claim 12, wherein the means connecting the signal generating means to the auxiliary circuit comprises a USB connective cable.

15. The apparatus for resetting a remote computer processor as described in claim 12, wherein the intentional signal comprises a selected number of fault simulations generated within a selected time interval.
16. The apparatus for resetting a remote computer processor as described in claim 15, wherein the selected number of fault simulations is three fault simulations.
17. The apparatus for resetting a remote computer processor as described in claim 16, wherein the selected time interval is three seconds.